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## The Twentieth Anniversary of Soviet Aggression Against the Baltic States

### MANIFESTO

of

Free Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

Twenty years ago, the Soviet Union attacked the Baltic States. Some 300,000 Red Army troops poured into Lithuania on June 15, 1940, and into Latvia and Estonia on June 17, 1940. With the protection of the occupation army, the communists of "Kremlin, Vyshny, Zhdanov"—commanded the Baltic governments of the Baltic countries. The Baltic countries were robbed of their independence and transformed into satellites of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union's assault against its Baltic neighbors initiated the Soviet warred march against Europe, against the Baltic States in 1940.

By its aggressive acts against Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the U.S.S.R. broke the peace and non-aggression treaty it had signed with those states as well as other international agreements.

Propaganda, exploitation, persecution, slave labor, suppression of human rights and fundamental freedoms, Repression, terrorism, murder, mass deportations—these are the marks of the Soviet occupation in the Baltic States. In committing these acts, the Soviets violated the United Nations Declaration embodying the Atlantic Charter, the United Nations Charter, the Convention of Crimes of Genocide, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—all three documents bearing the signatures of the U.S.S.R.,

The Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian peoples, historically and traditionally Western in orientation and culture, placed their hopes in the Western world. Their trust and reliance in the War was strengthened by the Declaration of the United States Department of State of 23 July, 1940; the Statements of the Presidents of the United States of 15 October, 1941; the Atlantic Charter; the Yalta Declaration on Liberated Europe; the repeated statements by the United States Government about non-recognition of the Soviet annexation of the Baltic States and continued recognition of their diplomatic representatives; and the proclaimed aim and principles of the United Nations.

The Baltic people have given active expression to their determination to regain freedom, and have resisted their oppression, thus contributing greatly to the all continuing struggle for freedom and justice being waged by all captive peoples enslaved by the Soviet Union. Despite heavy setbacks and trials, our people maintained faith in the restoration of their freedom and independence.

This summer the Soviet occupiers will unveil a massive spectacle—fascist celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the endavours of the Baltic States during which the captive Baltic peoples will be pressed to appear grateful to their conquerors.

We—free Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—are conscious of our responsibility toward our nations and toward history. At this twentieth anniversary of Soviet aggression, we feel compelled to give voice to the aspirations of our captive peoples:

WE DEMAND that the Soviet Union of committing and continuing an international crime against the Baltic States; Baltic countries;

WE REQUEST that the governments of the free world, especially those of the Great Powers, undertake all peaceful ways and means to restore the exercise of the right of self-determination in the Baltic countries and in the rest of East-Central Europe;

WE APPEAL to the conscience of all mankind to perceive the magnitude of the injustice perpetrated upon the Baltic countries and to support the efforts toward the restoration of the liberty of these countries;

WE CONVINE to our people at home our pride in their resolute resistance against the advances of the oppressor to destroy their national and personal identity;

WE EXPRESS to our people behind the Iron Curtain our deep conviction that the Soviet system—as all tyrannies throughout history—carries within it the seeds of its own destruction; that it cannot stand and prevail;

WE PLEDGE to intensify our joint organized activity in the free world to promote the cause of liberty for the Baltic countries;

WE, FINALLY, DECLARE to the free world and the Communist-dominated world, including the U.S.S.R.,

that, once more again, the Baltic nations will do all in their power to ensure the best possible relations with their neighbors on the basis of mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Vytautas Šventėjus  
Chairman  
(Lithuania)

Alfredas Brzičius  
Chairman  
(Latvia)

Members:

JAN TUREL (Estonia)  
ERNST VÄLJA (Estonia)  
Anton Ratas (Latvia)  
Vaidas Butkus (Latvia)  
Miroslavas (Lithuania)  
COL. JONAS SLEPYRS (Lithuania)  
DR. ASTAUS TIRNAKS (Lithuania)

Leonidas Vaitekėnas (Estonia)  
Deputy Chairman  
(Estonia)

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